

Message Text

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HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN
HQ USAREUR HEIDELBEG

UNCLAS STUTTGART 0667

FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, GW
SUBJ: MAOIST-INSPIRED DEMONSTRATIONS IN HEIDELBERG

1. SUMMARY: MAOIST-ORIENTED COMMUNIST UNION OF WEST
GERMANY (KOMMUNISTISCHER BUND WESTDEUTSCHLANDS/KBW)
SPARKS HEIDELBERG DEMONSTRATIONS DURING WEEK JUNE 23
AGAINST ANNOUNCED STREETCAR PRICE INCREASE. UNIVERSITY
AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AS WELL AS LEFT EXTREMIST ELEMENTS
PARTICIPATE. LOCAL POLICE UNABLE COMPLETELY CONTROL
SITUATION AND CALLED FOR OUTSIDE REINFORCEMENTS. POLICE
CRITICIZED FOR USING PEPPER FOG SPRAY HARMFUL ALSO TO
PASSERS-BY. TWENTY-FIVE POLICE AND STUDENTS AMONG THOSE
INJURED. DEMONSTRATIONS AND INCIDENTS REPORTEDLY
WORST EVER EXPERIENCED IN HEIDELBERG. END SUMMARY.
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2. ANNOUNCEMENT OF HEIDELBERG MUNICIPAL STREETCAR AUTHORITY (HEIDELBERGER STRASSEN- UND BERBAHN AG/HSB) TO RAISE PRICES BY APPROXIMATELY 25 PERCENT LED TO SEVERAL DEMONSTRATIONS IN HEIDELBERG PAST WEEK. ACCORDING TO POLICE AND CONGEN CONTACTS, DEMONSTRATIONS ORGANIZED BY MAOIST-ORIENTED COMMUNIST UNION OF WEST GERMANY (KOMMUNISTISCHER BUND WESTDEUTSCHLANDS/KBW) AND SUPPORTED MAINLY BY UNIVERSITY AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AS WELL AS OTHER LEFTIST ELEMENTS. ON NIGHT OF JUNE 25, TWENTY-FIVE PERSONS - STUDENTS AND POLICEMEN - INJURED. NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN DEMONSTRATION INCREASED TO ABOUT 2,000 AFTER DEMONSTRATIONS ON PREVIOUS DAYS HAD ATTRACTED ONLY ABOUT 300.

3. LOCAL POLICE HAD DIFFICULTIES DEFENDING SELVES AGAINST DEMONSTRATORS ARMED WITH STONES, BOTTLES, CHAINS AND HEAVY CONSTRUCTION UTENSILS. POLICE FORCED TO SEEK REINFORCEMENTS AND USED WATER-THROWERS AND, FOR FIRST TIME, NEW "PEPPER-FOG-SPRAY." USE OF LATTER MUCH DISPUTED IN PUBLIC BECAUSE IT ALSO AFFECTED HARMLESS PASSERS-BY.

4. FRG NATIONAL LABOR CONFEDERATION (DEUTSCHER GEWERKSCHAFTSBUND/DGB) SHARPLY CONDEMNED COMMUNIST-LED ACTIONS, ALTHOUGH DGB, TOO, CRITICIZED PRICE POLICY OF HEIDELBERG STREETCAR AUTHORITY.

5. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, DEMONSTRATION AND INCIDENTS ON JUNE 25 WERE MOST VIOLENT EVER EXPERIENCED IN HEIDELBERG.

6. COMMENT: ONSET OF UNCOMFORTABLE SUMMER WEATHER POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTING FACTOR TO SIZE AND VIOLENCE OF DEMONSTRATIONS. MORE IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, IS FACT THAT LEFTIST-ORIENTED GROUPS HAVE RESERVOIR OF WILLING SUPPORTERS AMONG HEIDELBERG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND OTHER ELEMENTS OF LOCAL POPULATION. JENKINS

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